

CALVIN

against avarice, with appropriate topical illustrations.

Equally naturally, the Council retorted by accusing Beza of stirring up class hatred against the rich."

The situation was aggravated by an individual

scandal. One of the magistrates, who regarded

Beza's remarks as a personal reflection, was rash enough

to demand to be heard before the Council, with the result

that he was found guilty, condemned to pay a fine, and

compelled to forfeit fifty crowns which he had lent at

10 per cent, interest. Evidently, when matters were

pushed to such lengths as this, no one, however respect-

able, could feel sure that he was safe.

The Council

and the ministers had already had words over the

sphere of their respective functions, and were to fall

out a year or two later over the

administration of the

local hospital. On this occasion the Council com-

plained that the clergy were interfering with the magis-

trate's duties, and implied politely that they would be

well advised to mind their own business.

So monstrous a suggestion—as though there were any

human activity which was not the business of the

Church !—evoked a counter-manifesto on the part of

the ministers, in which the full doctrine of the earthly

Jerusalem was set forth in all its majesty.

They

declined to express regret for having cited before the

Consistory those who sold corn at

extortionate prices,
and for refusing the sacrament to one of
them. Did
not Solomon say, " Cursed is he who keeps
his corn in
time of scarcity" ? To the charge of
intemperate
language Chauvet replied that the Council
had better
begin by burning the books of the Prophets,
for he had
done no more than follow the example set
by Hosea.

¹¹ If we should be silent," said Beza, " what
would the
people say ? That they are dumb dogs.

... As to
the question of causing scandals, for the
last two years
there has been unceasing talk of usury,
and, for all
that, no more than three or four usurers
have been
punished. . . . It is notorious
everywhere that the